(a) whether it is a fact that Madarsa system of education mainly focuses study of the Quran, the Hadis and Fiquah;

(b) if so, what steps are taken to incorporate modern subjects in syllabi of Madarsa system of education at all levels throughout the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to Dr. Salamullah of Jamia Millia Islamia, in Madarsa education, modernity is a far cry; and

(d) if so, looking to such observations what does the Ministry propose to bring about a total change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Madrasas are traditional Islamic institutions that provide religious teaching. They also teach Arabic and Persian languages.

Under the Central Plan Scheme for the Modernisation of Madarsa Education, the Government provides grants to State Governments for subsequent releases to Madarsas for the following components: (i) the salaries of two teachers per Madarsa @ Rs. 3,000/- per teacher to teach modern subjects like Maths, Science, Social Science, History, etc. (ii) additional grants of Rs. 7,000/- per Madarsa for book banks and libraries. No grant is given for any religious edcation.

(c) and (d) Government is not aware of any such reference.

Committee to review History and Social Science books

393. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian History Congress has constituted a Committee to review the new History and Social Science textbooks published by NCERT;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the errors in the Social Science and History textbooks have been rectified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of press reports, indicating formation of such a Committee.

(c) and (d) The NCERT has informed that some mistakes, mainly of editorial nature, in the NCERT's Social Science and History text books were pointed out. Necessary corrections, wherever considered appropriate have already been incorporated.

Universalisation of elementary education

394. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have definite plans to achieve universalisation of elementary education and implement the provisions of the 93rd Amendment Act; and

(b) if so, what are the policy initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a number of steps to ensure Universalisation of Elementary Education. The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 to make Elementary Education a Fundamental Right has been passed by the Parliament and the Act has also received the President's Assent on 12.12.2002. This is to be followed by Central Legislation with detailed mechanism to implement the Constitutional Amendment Act.

The Government has also launched the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SAS) in November, 2000 to pursue Universal Elementary Education in a mission mode.

The goals of SSA are as follows:—

- All 6—14 age children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, "Back to school' camp by 2003;
- All 6—14 age children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;
- All 6—14 age children complete eight years of schooling by 2010;